

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2375

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, US

SUBJECT: LEBANON

REFS: (A) DAMASCUS 2275, (B) DAMASCUS 2331 (C) STATE 88187

1. AFTER I HAD ACCOMPANIED SENATORS MATHIAS, ABOUREZK AND EAGLETON ON TWO HOUR CALL ON ASAD AFTERNOON APRIL 18 (SEPTEL), DAOUDI CALLED ME TO PRESIDENCY IN LATE EVENING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM ASAD CONCERNING MY APRIL 14 MEETING WITH DAOUDI (REFTELS). DAUDI SAID ASAD HAD GIVEN HIM FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS TO BE DELIVERED APRIL 15 BUT HE, DAOUDI, HAD BEEN ILL. HE THEN READ FOLLOWING:

QTE:

(A) SYRIA CONSIDERS THAT YOUR CONVERSATION CONTAINED AN ULTIMATUM. SYRIA REJECTS IT CATEGORICALLY.

(B) SYRIA IS NOT PREPARED AT PRESENT AND WILL NOT BE PREPARED IN THE FUTURE TO ACCEPT ANY ULTIMATUMS FROM ANY QUARTER IN THE WORLD.

(C) WHAT IS HAPPENING IN LEBANON IS AN INTERNAL ARAB MATTER AND THE ARABS ARE THE ONLY ONES QUALIFIED TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM.

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(D) THE ONLY CONSIDERATION WHICH GOVERNS THE DIMENSIONS OF SYRIAN INTERVENTION IN LEBANON, NOW AND IN THE FTURE, INCLUDING THE SIZE AND LOCATION OF SYRIAN FORCES, IS THE INTEREST OF THE LEBANESE PEOPLE BECAUSE OUR HISTORY IS ONE, OUR FUTURE IS ONE AND OUR DESTINY IS ONE. UNQTE

2. DAOUDI COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT FELT OBLIGED TO REACT ONCE ISRAEL HAD GONE PUBLIC ON APRIL 14/15 WITH TALK ABOUT A "RED LINE." ASAD TOOK THAT AS A PUBLIC REFUBB TO SYRIA. DAOUDI SAID WE SHOULD VIEW HIS INSTRUCTIONS, IN HIS OPINION, AS DIRECTED TO ISRAEL, NOT TO U.S. HOWEVER, HE WAS NOT UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, HE ADDED, TO ASK US TO CONVEY THE MESSAGE TO THE ISRAELIS.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

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